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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/559,455	04/28/2000	Haruo Machida	35.C14455	3832

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EXAMINER

HAILU, TADESSE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 08/21/2003

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

11

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/559,455

Applicant(s)

Haruo Machida

Examiner

Tadesse Hailu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 4, 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 and 34-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Apr 28, 2000 is/are a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the Amendment entered 4 August 2003 for the patent application (09/559,455) filed 4/28/2000.
2. Priority is claimed from JP 11-124827 filed 4/30/1999.
3. The indicated allowability of claims 1-45 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Kuwamoto et al (5,353,399). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.
4. Status of the claims - claims 1-45 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28-32, 41, 42, 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jalalian et al (5,548,722) in view of Kuwamoto et al (5,353,399).

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The invention of Jalalian et al ("Jalalian") is generally directed to computerized networks. It is more specifically directed to a system for navigating through a network and accessing desired network services.

Regarding claim 1, Jalalian discloses a block diagram of a networked system 100 in which two or more personal computers 111, 112, etc., are connected by way of respective network interfaces 121, 122, etc., to a network 130. A plurality of user-shared resources 131, 132, etc., are provided on the network 130 for shared use by the plural workstations 111, 112, etc. These shared resources can include, but are not limited to, a plurality of laser printers (LP's) 131, 134, 138 and 139.

As per acquisition means..., Jalalian describes that when the user computer requires queries the network manager 110 for a specified service, the network manager allocates the requested and available services (network resources 131, 132, etc) to his client;

as per management means..., Jalalian describes that the network manager 110 stores the network shared resources of network 130 on one or more file servers (FS) 132, 135, etc.

As per virtual system configuration display means..., Jalalian further describes a display panel that displays resource availability and provides selection presentation. The resource availability is viewed on the display as an icon image of the resource or device; and a pointing device is used to manipulate or select the displayed image. The display also shows not only what resource are available to the user, but also the connection state to the resources (fig. 7).

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Furthermore Jalalian describes based on the condition state (e.g. connected or not connected) (Fig. 3B) the user display will show each resource and their associated feature or function.

However, Jalalian does not show *“when a device capable of coping with a color data processing is connected on the predetermined communication medium, the virtual system configuration display means causes said display unit to display a mark indicating such a fact nearby the icon corresponding to the device capable of coping with the color data processing.”*

Kuwamoto relates to a method and device for managing shared sources in an information processing device connected to one or more I/O devices through a communication line.

Kuwamoto further discloses displayed printer icons containing the type and the operating state of each shared printers (column 8, lines 48-66). Furthermore, if the shared printer is a color printer with some color toners, the icon color may indicate the currently-usable color or, with respect to a color plotter, the icon may indicate the number or color of color pens currently mounted to the color plotter. Moreover, Kuwamoto's display means can discriminate a device capable of printing in color by color marking of the icon (column 7, lines 3-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the visual indicators of a color capable printers with Jalalian printer icons because when color printers are connected to Jalalian system these printer icons will indicate that the printer icons are color capable and the user can immediately know which of the shared resources is capable of printing in color.

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Regarding independent claims 14, and 21, these claims correspond generally to apparatus claim 1 and recite similar features in method and storage medium form, respectively, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 6, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto further describes that the shared resources include, but are not limited to, a plurality of laser printers (see Jalalian: Fig. 1, #131, 134, 138, 139).

Regarding claim 7, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto further describes that the network 100 can include other local networks 130. The network manager 110 is a management server, manages all management task, such as allocating resources (see Jalalian: column 7, lines 9-26).

Regarding claim 8, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto describes that the network system further includes a plurality of file servers 132, 135. They store all requested resource information including status of each device (see Jalalian: column 6, lines 43-49, Fig. 3B).

Regarding claim 9, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto further describes that said network system further includes a plurality of workstations/PC 111, and 112 for acquiring information from the network (see Jalalian: column 6, lines 36-44).

Regarding claim 10, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto further describes said network system also includes a table (3B) (a predetermined data structure) for the resource information (see Jalalian: column 16, lines 15-19).

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Regarding claim 11, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto further describes said network system further discloses that the resource includes various icon image data for displaying the system configuration (see Jalalian: column 13, lines 19-column 15, lines 4).

Regarding claim 28, Jalalian's network system 100 performs data communication with plural user-shared resources or devices 131, 132, 112 connected with a data communication link or path (see Jalalian: fig. 7);

as per display control means, Jalalian's network system 100 further includes a display control that displays these user-shared resources (see Jalalian: Figs. 2A, 2B);

wherein, the image of the data communication path and the icon it connects are shown in Fig. 7.

Jalalian also describes the state or status of the resource devices whether it is connected or not connected to other device (see Jalalian: Fig. 3B). The communication path between these devices is also shown in fig. 7

However, Jalalian does not show *"when a device capable of coping with a color data processing is connected on the predetermined communication medium, the virtual system configuration display means causes said display unit to display a mark indicating such a fact nearby the icon corresponding to the device capable of coping with the color data processing."*

Kuwamoto relates to a method and device for managing shared sources in an information processing device connected to one or more I/O devices through a communication line.

Kuwamoto further discloses displayed printer icons containing the type and the operating state of

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each shared printers (see Kuwamoto: column 8, lines 48-66). Furthermore, if the shared printer is a color printer with some color toners, the icon color may indicate the currently-usable color or, with respect to a color plotter, the icon may indicate the number or color of color pens currently mounted to the color plotter (see Kuwamoto: column 7, lines 3-13). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the visual indicators of a color capable printers with Jalalian printer icons because when color printers are connected to Jalalian system the printer icons will indicate that the printer icons are color capable and the user can immediately know which of the shared resources is capable of printing in color.

Regarding independent claims 44, and 45, these claims correspond generally to apparatus claim 28 and recite similar features in method and storage medium form, respectively, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claims 41, and 42, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto describes displaying a mark indicating color capability or connection nearby the icon corresponding to the device capable of inputting or outputting the color image (see Kuwamoto: column 7, lines 3-13, Fig. 12, *unusable* and *usable* indicators near icons EM1 and EC2 respectively).

Regarding to claim 29, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto discloses a plurality of device icons, such as scanners printers and computers, wherein the display form of each device icon is different (see Jalalian: figs. 2a, 6 and 7).

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Regarding claims 2, 15, 22, and 30, as shown in figs. 2a, 7 of Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto for example Mac IIfx (apple product) is displayed in different form from other apple product, such as LaserWriters or ImageWriters printers (see Jalalian: column 9, lines 42-column 10, lines 65).

Regarding claims 31, and 32, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto discloses a plurality of user-shared resources 131, 132, etc., that are provided on the network. These user-shared resources can include, but are not limited to, a plurality of printers. In addition to a printer, claims 31 and 32 call for scanner and digital copying machine, fax machine and modem and visually connected with a communication path on the display. Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto does only show a visually displayed connection between a printer and other resources and user computer (Fig. 7). However, Official notice is taken that it is well known also as suggested by Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto (see Jalalian: figs. 1A, 7, column 6, lines 36-43) to visually provide other shard resource including scanner, fax machine, digital camera and modem. Thus, once a plurality of shared resource are available in the network 100, user will be able to access to a desired device in a network and the network 100 may provide the requested access to the user.

7. Claims 3, 16, 23, and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jalalian et al (5,548,722) in view of Kuwamoto et al (5,353,399) and Kung et al (5,742,286).

Regarding claims 3, and 34, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto discloses a graphical user interface to manipulate the displayed object, such as device icons.

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as per indication means, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto discloses a graphical user interface which supports drag and drop operation on the plurality of resource icons (see Jalalian: Figs. 4a-6);

as shown in Fig. 6, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto discloses highlighting a resource icon, which is a temporarily changing of the appearance or status of the icon (see Jalalian: fig. 6). However, Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto fails to show *the judgement means for judging effectiveness of an arbitrary combination function indicated by said first indication means*, and Jalalian further fails to show *when it is judged by said first judgment means that the combination function is effective, said virtual system configuration display means temporarily changes a display status of the icon for each function indicated by said first indication means from display statuses of other icons while the combination is being executed*.

Kung which is related to Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto discloses a method for user manipulation of displayed icons. Kung further discloses a drag and drop operation to teach the above limitations (see Figs. 2G-3L, for example), wherein Fig. 2G also shows a different pattern or appearance of displaying a status of an icon which is different than other non selected icons (column 7, lines 48-60). The combination of icons shown (Figs. 2G-3L, for example) is the result of drag and drop operation on the icons (see Figs. 2G-3L, and elsewhere).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the visual combination of icons which have different temporarily appearance with Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto drag and drop operation because

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the visual appearance during drag and drop operation will enable user to visualize the combined icon function.

Regarding independent claims 16, and 23, these claims correspond generally to apparatus claims 3 and recite similar features in method and storage medium form, respectively, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 35, this claims, while not necessary identical in scope, contain limitations similar to independent claim 3 and therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 36, the display control means display s a specific emphasis pattern nearby the icon of the arbitrary combination indicated by indication means (see Kung: figs. 2B-3L).

8. Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 17-20, 24, 25-27, 37-40 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jalalian et al (5,548,722) in view of Kuwamoto et al (5,353,399) and Ahearn et al (5,926,463).

Regarding claims 13, 20, 27, and 40, while Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto displays a plurality of installed device displayed in icon form, but Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto fails to disclose the icon corresponding to the device of which driver is not installed in the data processing apparatus to be displayed in gray. However, Ahearn which is a related art with Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto discloses a method and apparatus for viewing a configuration

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of a computer network discloses a grey icon when a driver is not installed for a device (see Ahearn: column 8, lines 15-55).

Regarding claims 4, 5, 17, 18, 24, 25, 37, and 38, while Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto displays a path or link (Fig. 7) to connect the icons for the respective device, but Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto is not explicitly shown that the link can be displayed in different form. However, Ahearn discloses different appearance of a communication path or link and color-coded status of an object icon associated to a specific task (see column 5, lines 39-57, column 8, lines 15-55, Fig. 8).

Similarly, Regarding claims 12, 19, 26, 39, and 43, while Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto describes that user can query for a resource device for its availability in the network, but fails to show the resource device availability is displayed in a different form than others if the driver is present. However, again, Ahearn discloses various color-coded status of each object, such as *green or light-green* to suggest *ok* and *Red* to suggest an error or no connection can be made or to indicate the device is temporally unusable (see Ahearn: column 8, lines 15-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the path or connection lines of Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto with color-coded status of Ahearn because user will be able to easily identify a connection and it will enhance the network resource management system in monitoring the system for a troubleshooting.

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9. Claims 18 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jalalian et al (5,548,722) in view of Kuwamoto et al (5,353,399) and Ahearn et al (5,926,463) as applied to claims 17 and 24 above, and further in view of Kung et al (5,742,286).

In addition what is claimed in claims 17 or 24, claims 18 and 25 further call for adding a specific emphasis pattern to the indicated icons to emphasize and display these icons. Although this feature is not explicitly shown in Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto and Ahearn. However, adding a specific emphasis pattern to the indicated icon is disclosed in Kung (see Figs. 2B-3L).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the addition of a specific emphasis pattern to a displayed icon with Jalalian as modified by Kuwamoto and Ahearn because user will give more attention to specific emphasis pattern and be able to visualize the display icon quickly and easily.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

while the cited art, Jalalian, Kung and Ahearn disclose manipulation, such as drag and drop of device icons to form, such as, a copy or move function, but the cited art fails to disclose the combination of the icons corresponding to the scanner and the printer, wherein the scanner and the printer are cooperated with each other through the data communication path so as to execute a function equivalent to the function executed by the digital copying machine.

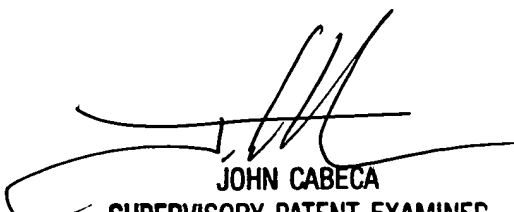
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In sum, the prior art (the references) do not have the required teachings for claim 33. Thus, prior art neither renders obvious nor anticipates the combination of claimed elements in light of the specification.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited, Oran et al (5,617,526) disclose a data processing device including a GUI for displaying a display mark indicating connection on the a predetermined communication medium nearby an icon corresponding to the device capable of communicating with other devices in the network (see Oran: Fig. 5).
 12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to *Tadesse Hailu*, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:45 - 6:30 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, *John Cabeca*, can be reached at (703) 308-3116.
 13. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.
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Tadesse Hailu August 12, 2003


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